Opportunity
Obesity Research Cluster
Founding Director: Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa

History
The Texas Tech University Obesity Research Cluster (ORC) was established in Spring 2013. This collaborative research cluster was initiated by Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa and Dean Linda Hoover, College of Human Sciences, along with the Office of the Vice President for Research. As part of the Texas Tech University System, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences, have taken an active role in this research collaboration.

Vision Statement
Achieve national leadership and recognition in interdisciplinary obesity research.

Mission Statement
Develop interdisciplinary basic clinical and community translational research to prevent and treat obesity along with its related complications.

Purpose
The purpose of the Obesity Research Cluster is to foster and enhance interdisciplinary basic clinical and community translational research; to understand the causes and complications of obesity; and develop methods that will help prevent and treat obesity along with its related complications.

• Research conducted within this research cluster includes both basic, clinical and community research that will inform and advance strategies to prevent, treat and reduce obesity and its metabolic complications.
• ORC researchers use diverse state of the art approaches ranging from cellular and molecular studies, to animal models of obesity and metabolic disorders and human subjects for clinical interventions. Further, ORC community-based participatory research addresses the complexity of obesity from the biological, behavioral, environmental and societal aspects.

Objectives
• Increase productive collaborations within the TTU System, initially between TTU and TTUHSC, and expanding to the West Texas region and state of Texas agencies. Such collaborations will lead to increased publications and funded grant proposals.
• Increase undergraduate, graduate and health care students as well as postdoc training in basic, clinical and community research on obesity and its related conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. These objectives will help increase our research base and allow us to attract additional and larger research funding from federal agencies and foundations.
Participating Units
Texas Tech University
Center for Biotechnology and Genomics
College of Arts and Sciences
  • Biological Sciences
  • The Institute of Environment and Human Health
  • Environmental Toxicology
  • Health Exercise and Sports Studies
  • Psychology
College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
  • Agricultural and Applied Economics
  • Animal and Food Sciences
College of Engineering
College of Human Sciences
  • Center for Adolescent Resiliency
  • Center for the Study of Addiction and Recovery
  • Nutritional Sciences
  • Personal Financial Planning
College of Media & Communications

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
School of Biomedical Sciences
  • Cell Biology and Biochemistry
School of Medicine
  • Obstetrics and Gynecology
  • Pediatrics
  • Pathology
  • Surgery
School of Nursing

Directions
  • Develop the ORC strategic plan aligned with TTU and HSC missions
  • Provide seed funds for collaborative obesity research to generate preliminary data for external funding
  • Offer seminar series highlighting obesity experts from TTU and external speakers
  • Hold an annual translational obesity conference

For more information:
www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/obesityresearch/